

## Dan Delcher - State Vice President- November '05

I can't believe the summer is over and the school year is now in full swing. And being a state officer could never be better. I am part of a really great team that really communicates and works together. Although State Convention is considered the end I can't wait to host it with my teammates, Dale, Kristina, and Matt. They have been great friends since I have met them at State Convention. I would have not had such a great summer and a good start on college if it wasn't for my teammates.

At the End of July, Dale and I went to Washington, D.C. where we participated in the State Presidents' Conference. At the Conference we conducted official business for National FFA by reviewing the National Convention Issues and forming the committees for those Issues. We also advocated for Agriculture Education and FFA to visits to the Department of Agriculture, Senator Corzine's Office, and Congressmen Holt and LoBiondo Offices. Another really exciting opportunity was to actually tour the White House and actually meet the President, George W. Bush. We did a lot of touring of Washington D.C. by night which was really cool because the monuments and Capital building look really nice at night. We paid respect to our men in the armed services, by visiting the Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We also attended the US Marine Corp Sunset Parade and had dinner at the Fort Myers Officer Club. I think the most positive experience of this trip was being able to network with FFA State Officers from around the country and learn more about the extent that FFA is nationwide. State Presidents' Conference is an

experience that I will never forget.

After State Presidents' Conference the team and I went to West Virginia to NLCSO and then to Atlantic City for Generation Next. Generation Next was really exciting because I was able to connect with other students from other Vocational Student Organizations. I made friends in FCCLA, FBLA, and SkillsUSA by attending a workshop hosted by the Office of Vocational Education and Mrs. Patty Hendrickson. We learned a lot about being facilitators, public speaking, and serving our members the best we can. Generation Next was not only interesting because I was able to connect with other VSOs, but it reminded that I have a job to serve myself and those that choose me.



Now that school is started, one of the most exciting parts about being a state officer is meeting the members. On October 13<sup>th</sup>, I conducted my first chapter visit, which was to visit the Northern Burlington County Middle School FFA Chapter and the Northern Burlington County High School FFA Chapter. I really had an exciting time at both schools and really was able to connect with all age of members. At the middle school, I meet Ms. Harrison, Middle School Agriculture Teacher, who showed me around their very new school which is located right next door to the high school. She shared with me what her chapter is doing such as helping at a homeless shelter, having roller skating parties, and working with the high school FFA chapter. During my visit with the classes, I talked and showed them how they can use what they have learned in the classroom and apply it to FFA through various opportunities like Career Development Events and leadership activities. I even meet some eager FFA members like Joe, Faith, Harvey, and Shawn, who were all excited about being members of FFA and the opportunities FFA can provide them. They even shared with me some exciting things that they have been learning in class like plant parts, Fruit and Vegetable Identification, and Dairy Foods so that they are ready to compete in the Fall CDE's. After lunch, I was joined by agriculture student teacher, Jennifer Wilson, who introduced me to the high school FFA chapter, and the agriculture facilities at the high school. I saw the floral shop, their 3 greenhouses, tropical aquaculture tanks, the goat, chickens, rabbits, and the agriculture mechanics and small engines work shop. After my tour, I spoke to Mr. Hlubik's 8<sup>th</sup> period agriculture mechanics class. I spoke to the class about FFA, FFA opportunities, and being a state officer. Dan and Amanda, Northern Burlington FFA Chapter President and Reporter spoke to the class about current chapter activities such as the activities being hosted at Pumpkin Fest and the chapter meeting and get together at another member's house. At the end of the class, Amanda and Dan were very interested in being State Officers after attending COLT. So I spoke to them about the State Candidate process and recommended some things for them to do to see the behind the scenes activities and learn if being a state officer is right for them. I really had an enjoyable time at my first chapter visit and I was glad it was to Northern Burlington. I can't wait for my next visit.

